

**MANOR FARM,  
Oundle Road,  
Chesterton,  
Cambridgeshire**

**NGR REF: TL 1261 9531**



***ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION***

**(OASIS ID: independ1-347335)**

**(EVENT NR: ECB5482)**

**SEPTEMBER 2018**

**PREPARED BY CHRISTER CARLSSON**

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## Summary

*An archaeological evaluation was conducted by Independent Archaeology Consultants for the construction of new dwellings on land adjacent to Manor Farm, Chesterton. A number of undated features and a Post medieval ditch were uncovered and a limited find material was collected from the site. A pond with a surrounding brickwall was thought to be about hundred years old.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire (NGR: TL 1261 9531) (Figure 1-3). The investigation was carried out in accordance with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014), as well as discussions with Gemma Stewart, Archaeological Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 1.2 Independent Archaeology Consultants is an archaeological consultancy company based in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The company subscribes to the *Code of Conduct, the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations* (CifA 2014), *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (EAA Occasional Paper 14) and *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a revised framework for the East of England* (EAA Occ. Paper No 24, 2011). All relevant CifA Codes of Practice were adhered to throughout the course of the project.

## 2 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Planning application 17/00801/FUL was for the erection of three detached houses and planning application 18/00524/FUL is for the demolition of two detached houses and erection of two replacement detached houses with garages, associated manoeuvring space and gardens. Both planning applications were dealing with developments on adjacent plots and after an agreement between the CHET, the client and their agent they were being dealt with under the same archaeological brief.
- 2.2 The first development area (Plot 12-13) was some 1890m<sup>2</sup> and the second area (Plot 9-11) about 2113m<sup>2</sup> large. The plots were located at an average height of 19.5m AOD. The development was located in Chesterton, approximately 540m to the west of the A1 and on the south side of the River Nene near Alwalton. It was situated on Cornbrash Formation-Limestone deposits (BGS accessed 01/06/2018).
- 2.3 The two sites were located within an area of archaeological potential, as defined by the CHER, and an archaeological evaluation was required prior to any construction within the two sites. This condition was mentioned in the Planning Permission granted by Huntingdon District Council and was in line with standards described in the NPPF.

## Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation

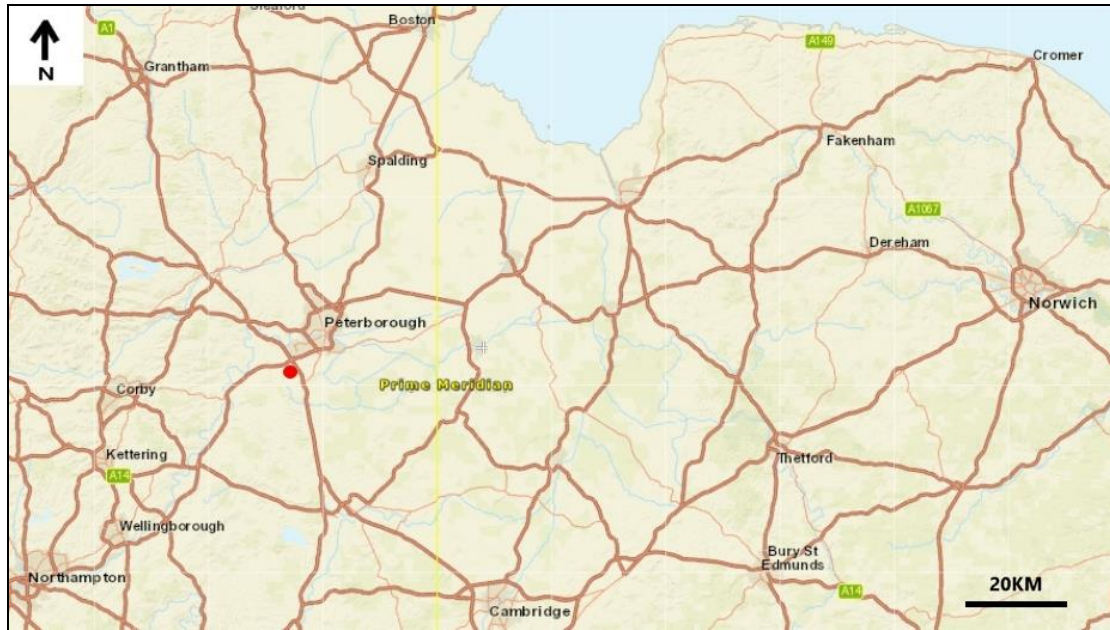


Figure 1. The location of Chesterton in England (Ordnance Survey maps produced with Licence nr: Ordnance Survey 0100031673).

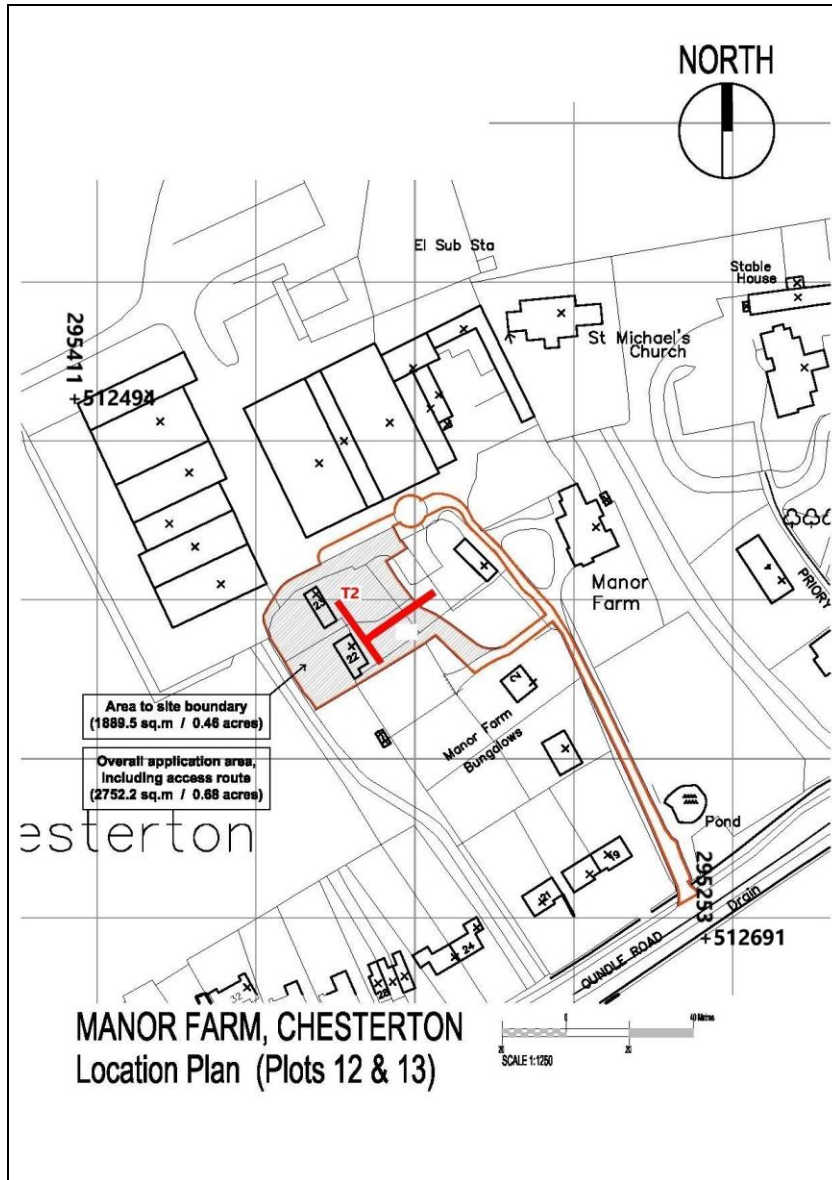


Figure 2. Site Outline and Trench Locations at Plot 12-13.

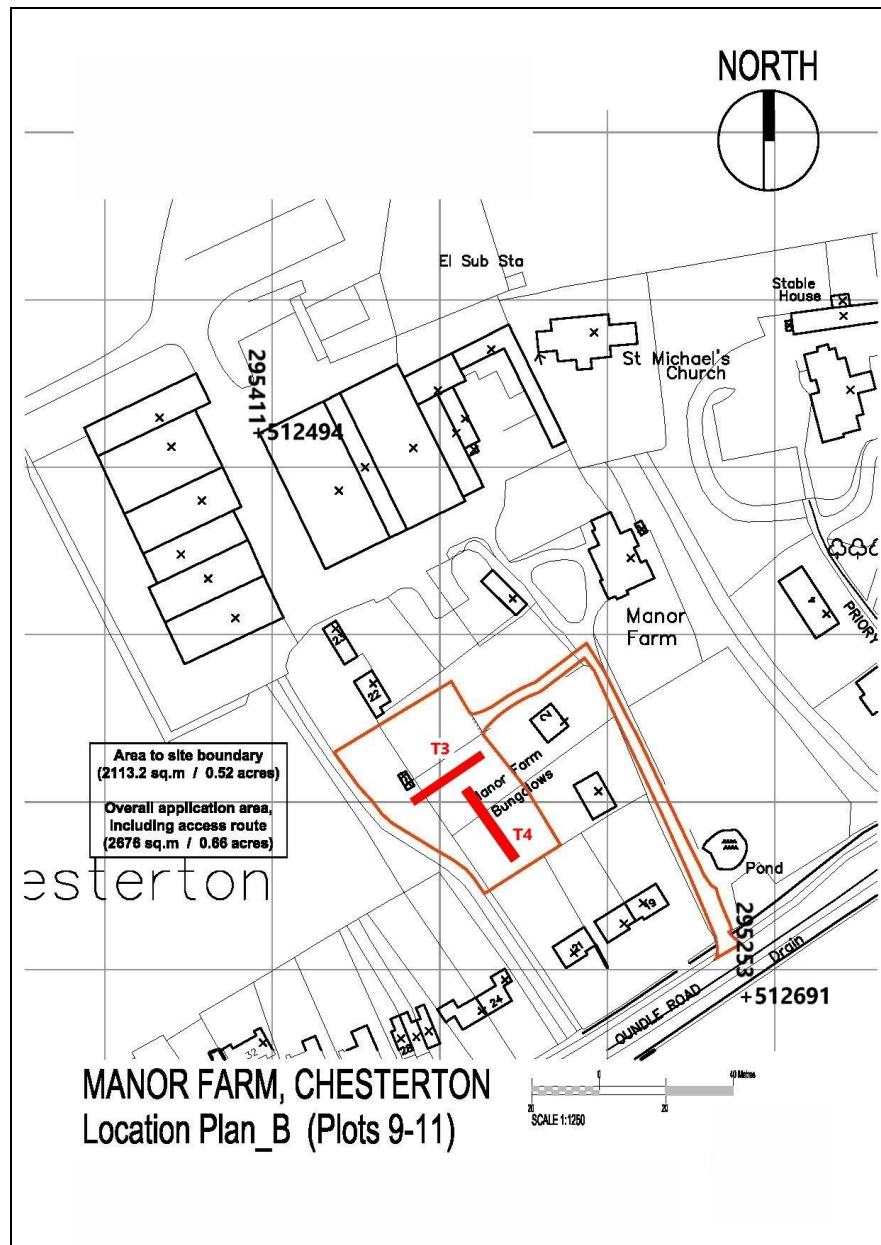


Figure 3. Site Outline and Trench Locations at Plot 9-11.

### 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Within an area of 1km from the proposed development site there were about sixty known archaeological features and findspots dating mainly to the Medieval, Roman and Prehistoric periods as indicated by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Records. The surroundings have also been the subject of archaeological investigations in recent years.

3.2 To the north of the application area was designated the fort and Roman walled town of Durobrivae and its south, west and east suburbs, immediately south and east of Water Newton village (National Heritage List for England

reference 1021429, HER DCB7846) and the non-scheduled remains of cropmarked sites relating to Prehistoric and Roman settlement, earlier Prehistoric ceremonial and funerary monuments and large quantities of metal detection finds recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme during rallies in non-scheduled fields to the south of the extensive area of scheduled remains.

- 3.3 In addition, to the north and west of the application area there were medieval earthworks and ridge and furrow (01605, 09175A). The ridge and furrow continued to the south of Oundle Road (01602).
- 3.4 The proposed development site was located roughly 45m to the south west of Manor Farm (Historic Environment Record reference 05712) and 90m to the south west of 12<sup>th</sup> century Saint Michael's Church, with rich medieval architectural features from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards (MCB17087).
- 3.5 There was a limited investigation history in this part of Chesterton, but where it has occurred, for example to the east of the church, this identified evidence of medieval and Post-medieval occupation (ECB1079). Further investigations have indicated Roman activity in an area some 100m northeast of the proposed development sites (ECB606) and (ECB553). Field walking south east of the sites between 2001 and 2002 revealed evidence of historic industrial activity (ECB2201).
- 3.6 A group of archaeological features and find spots were also located east of the A1, some 500 northeast of the site. Here were for instance remains of Roman pottery kilns (MCB16964) and (MCB16970), as well as medieval ridge and furrow systems some 80m south-west of Alwalton Hall (MCB25039). Roman pottery scatters, possibly associated with the previously mentioned kilns, have also been found just west of the A1 (MCB16970).
- 3.7 A Prehistoric ring ditch has also been located some 500m north of the proposed development site (MC17579), and a shrunken medieval settlement with associated earthworks was known from an area some 50m south of the development site (MCB17605). A larger area with medieval ridge and furrow systems has also existed some 250m south of the site (MCB25040).

#### **4 AIMS**

- 4.1 The evaluation aimed at determining, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains were potentially threatened was studied.
- 4.2 The evaluation results will be used to:

- a) determine the character, date, condition and significance of the archaeological resource;
  - b) define the nature and extent of any mitigation works that may be required.
- 4.3 The evaluation also considered the general investigative themes outlined by: Medlycott, M. 2011 (ed.) *Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 24; *Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties* (Glazebrook 1997; Brown & Glazebrook 2000), *English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda* (1997); *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005 - 2010* (English Heritage 2005).

## 5 METHODOLOGY

The evaluation aimed at determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. An adequate representative sample of all areas where archaeological remains were potentially threatened was therefore studied. The evaluation trenches were put in locations where no existing trees or buildings were present. A site visit was made to the site in July to assure there were no physical obstacles for the archaeological evaluation.

### 5.1 Trial Trenching

Based on the layout of the development area for Plot 12-13 it was suggested that 2 machine cut trenches, both 24m long and 2m wide, were opened up under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The total length of trenching was therefore 48m, totalling 96m<sup>2</sup>, or 5% of the ca 1890m<sup>2</sup> large development area. For practical reasons the two trenches were linked together to form one T-shaped trench.

Based on the layout of the development area for Plot 9-11 it was suggested that 2 machine cut trenches, both 27m long and 2m wide, were opened up under constant archaeological supervision using a flat bladed ditching bucket. The total length of trenching was therefore 54m, totalling 108m<sup>2</sup>, or 5% of the ca 2113m<sup>2</sup> large development area.

The location of the trenches targeted areas of proposed ground disturbance and focused on the areas that were going to be covered by the new dwellings. The location of the trenches were, however, slightly flexible and took into consideration potential above- and below-ground constraints and/or hazards, such as trees, utility trenches, overhead cables and areas of modern disturbance. The investigation area was searched for live cables and other potential threats before the evaluation began, and the management of spoil heaps were planned carefully.



The trenches were excavated to the upper interface of secure archaeological deposits or, where these were not present, to the upper interface of natural deposits. Thereafter, hand-excavation was required to sample any potentially archaeological features.

The field evaluation was not carried out at the expenses of the heritage assets present within the site and was minimally intrusive to any archaeological remains.

## **5.2 Metal Detecting**

Metal detector sweeps of exposed features and spoil heaps were carried out in advance of, and during, the excavation process. The metal detector was not set to discriminate against iron.

## **5.3 Hand Excavation**

All man-made features were. Apparently natural features (such as tree throws) will be sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity. Hand excavation and feature sampling will be sufficient to establish the date and character, and to allow appropriate levels of recording.

Deposits and layers (including buried horizons of top- and subsoils) were sampled sufficiently to enable a confident interpretation of their character, date and relationships with other features. The characterisation of the artefact contents of the ploughsoil was attempted, to provide an understanding of the presence/absence and condition of underlying archaeological remains: Were the artefacts in the topsoil mixed, and of different periods, (as a result of ploughing or recent ground disturbance) or was the stratigraphy in the ground still intact, with older artefacts in lower deposits?

The artefact contents of the ploughsoil and any lower soil horizons were examined as part of the fieldworks. A bucket sampling programme was conducted, where 90 litres of spoil was hand sorted for each horizon encountered. Bucket sampling points were placed at each end of trenches. Unstratified artefacts were sought and recovered from the spoil heaps. All exposed features were subject to a minimum of 50% excavation.

The evaluation provided a representative sample of the site's archaeology at no significant cost to the value or integrity of archaeological remains therein. The siteworks were carried out in consultation with the Archaeological Officer from Cambridgeshire County Council.

## **5.4 Recording**

A numbered single context-based recording system, written on suitable forms and indexed appropriately, was used for all elements of the archaeological recording programme.

Measured plans were produced to show all exposed features (including natural features and modern features etc.) and excavated areas. Individual measured plans and

sections were also produced for all excavated features and deposits. These were accurately tied into trench plans/trench location plans, that in turn were accurately related to the Ordnance Survey grid and to suitably mapped local features (boundaries, buildings, roads etc.). All sections and plans were related accurately to Ordnance Datum.

A photographic record comprising monochrome and digital photos form part of the excavation record. A selection of digital photographs was also used in this report (a maximum of two photographs per A4 sheet).

## **6 RESULTS**

### **Plot 12-13**

- 6.1 The two evaluation trenches at Plot 12-13 were linked together for practical reasons. This means that the trenches formed one T-shaped trench, with two legs that were both 24m long and 2m wide (Figure 4).
- 6.2 The Natural deposits in Trench 2 consisted of light yellow-white Cornbrash. Cut into the Natural were the undated ditch [204], the modern pit [205] and the pond [207].
- 6.3 The ditch [204] was 0.10m deep and had rounded sides and a flat base. It was visible over a distance of about 8m before it faded out towards the east. The ditch contained the single fill (203) of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional Cornbrash fragments. The ditch contained no finds and could not be more closely dated.
- 6.4 The modern pit [205] was 0.95m deep and oval in shape. It had rounded sides and a flat base but disappeared into the southern trench wall (Its full depth is seen in section). The pit contained the single fill (206) of dark brown, soft silty clay with two pieces of modern china. This fill had a similar texture as the topsoil and after cleaning of the section it became obvious that the pit had indeed been cut from the present ground surface.
- 6.5 In the northern end of the T-shaped Trench 2 there was the backfilled pond [207]. This pond is not showing up on any of the Ordnance Survey maps from the village of Chesterton, but the surrounding pond brickwall (208) was preserved to a height of ca 0.40m. The wall contained LBC-bricks, a type of bricks which has only been produced for the last 100 years old. The London Brick Company was founded in the year 1900. The outlines of the backfilled pond could still be seen as a hollow in the ground, and the size of the pond was estimated to be 6m x 7m.
- 6.6 The partly demolished brickwall could be seen cutting through the subsoil, but on the inside of the wall the greyish, silty and clayey pond fill (209) had been building up against it. The part of the pond fill that was exposed in Trench 2

did not contain any finds of archaeological interest, but at the surface frequent modern bricks and wood fragments could be seen (Figure 5).

- 6.7 Covering the ditch within Trench 2, but not the modern pit and the pond wall, was the Subsoil (202), which was up to 0.50m thick and consisted of light brown, soft silty clay with frequent stones.
- 6.8 The topsoil (201) in Trench 2 consisted of up to 0.35m thick dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent roots, stones and modern building debris. The Topsoil consisted of modern garden soil, which is likely to have been brought into the site within the last 100 years. This became clear as it covered the fill of the pond.



*Figure 4. The T-shaped Trench 2 overview from northeast.*

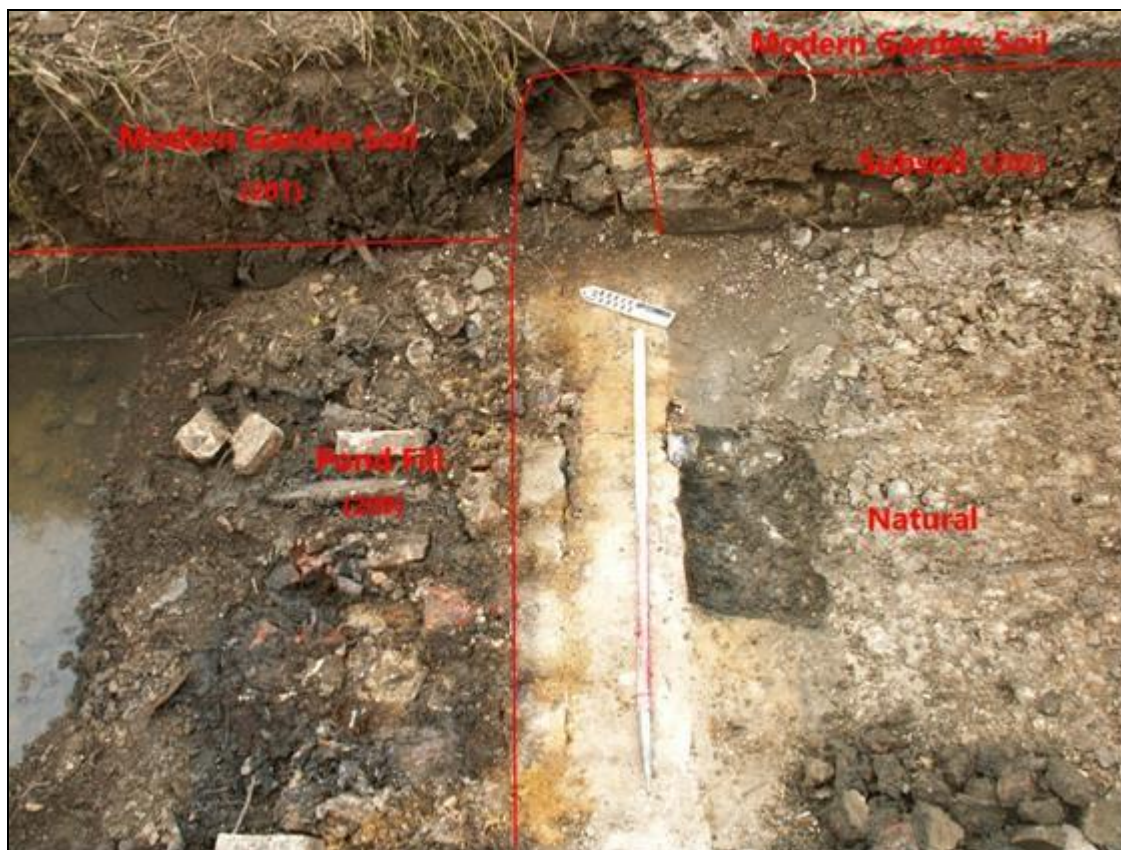


Figure 5. The brick pondwall in Trench 2. The wall contained LBC-bricks and was therefore thought to be maximum 100 years old. The wall had been cut through the Subsoil, but was covered by the later brought in garden soil.

## Plots 9-11

- 6.9 The evaluation Trenches 3 and 4 at Plot 9-11 in the south western part of the site were both 27m long and 2m wide. Trench 3 was northeast southwest orientated, while Trench 4 was northwest southeast orientated (Figures 6 and 7).
- 6.10 The Natural deposits in both trenches consisted of light yellow-white compact Cornbrash. Cut into the Natural in Trench 3 were the two ditches [304] and [306], while Trench 4 contained the single modern ditch [404].
- 6.11 The ditch [304] was northwest southeast orientated and was disappearing into both the northern and southern sections of Trench 3. The ditch was up to 0.46m deep. It contained a single fill of light brown, compacted silty clay with frequent cornbrash (303). The ditch contained no finds and could not be more closely dated.
- 6.12 The ditch [306] was east-west orientated and was only 0.10m deep. It contained the single fill (305) of light brown, soft silty clay with occasional Cornbrash. The ditch contained 6 sherds of Post medieval pottery.

- 6.13 Trench 4 contained the single modern ditch [404]. This ditch was northeast southwest orientated and was disappearing into the sections of the trench. The ditch was up to 0.35m deep and contained the single fill (403) of dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent broken modern glass bottles and plastic items. The modern ditch had been cut through the Topsoil.
- 6.14 Covering the features in Trench 3 and 4 was the up to 0.50m thick Subsoil (302) and (402) of light brown, soft silty clay with frequent Cornbrash inclusions. The uppermost deposit in Trench 3 and 4 was the up to 0.20m thick Topsoil (301) and (401) of dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent inclusions of roots and modern building debris.



*Figure 6. Trench 3 from northeast. Overview photo.*



*Figure 7. Trench 4 from northwest. Overview photo.*

## 7 FINDS

### **The Pottery (By Paul Blinkhorn)**

The pottery assemblage comprised 6 sherds of glazed redware with a total weight of 179g from context (305) and 2 pieces of modern china with a total weight of 52g from context (206).

The following fabric types were noted:

**17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Century Glazed Redware**, AD 1600-1800, 6 sherds, 179g.

**19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century China**, AD 1850-1950, 2 sherds, 52g.

The sherds were fairly large and in reasonably good condition. The style is common on sites in the region (eg. Clarke and Clarke 1977).

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The archaeological evaluation at Manor Farm, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire indicated that a partly backfilled pond was present in Trench 2. The wall surrounding the pond is likely to be about 100 years old as it was made of

LBC-bricks. The London Brick Company was only founded in the year 1900. The pond is not showing up on any of the older Ordnance Surveys maps from Chesterton.

- 8.2 Trench 2 also contained a shallow undated ditch, which may be a former drainage or boundary ditch. This ditch was cut by a modern pit which contained pieces of modern china. The pit had been cut from the top of the topsoil/garden soil and was the youngest feature in Trench 2.
- 8.3 In Trench 3 an undated ditch and a Post medieval ditch were uncovered. Both these ditches may be former drainage or boundary ditches. Especially ditch [304] gave this impression as it was both wider and deeper than the other ditches uncovered during the evaluation.
- 8.4 In Trench 4 a single modern ditch was investigated. The ditch contained broken modern glass bottles and plastic items, and is not likely to be older than 50 years.
- 8.5 The results of the archaeological evaluation at Plots 9-11 and Plots 12-13 at Manor Farm, Chesterton has contributed with a limited amount of new information regarding the historic development of Manor Farm. The features uncovered during the evaluation were of Post medieval and Modern date. Independent Archaeology Consultants would like to thank Cambridgeshire County Council's Historic Environment Team for its advisory and planning role throughout this project.

## 9 ARCHIVE

The archive consists of the following:

### Paper Record

The project brief	The project report
Written Scheme of Investigation	The primary site records
The photographic and drawn records	Finds

The archive will be deposited following the gaining of the transfer of title, and will be transferred to:

The Archaeological Collections for Cambridgeshire County Council.

## 10 BIBLIOGRAPHY

*British Geological Survey*. Internet based service.

*English Heritage Archaeology Division Research Agenda (1997); Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future: Research Strategy 2005-2010 (English Heritage 2005).*

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*Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation.* Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014. Reading.

Treasure Act. 1996. London.



## APPENDICES

### CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Context Nr	Depth (m)	Description	Younger than	Older than
<b><u>Trench 2 (T-shaped trench)</u></b>				
(201)	0.35	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent roots, stones and modern building debris	(202) (209)	[205]
(202)	0.50	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay with frequent stones	(203)	(201) (208)
(203)	0.10	Fill of ditch [204]. Light brown, soft silty clay with occasional Cornbrash fragments	[204]	[205]
[204]	0.10	Cut of ditch [204]	Natural	(203)
[205]	0.95	Cut of pit [205]	(203)	(206)
(206)	0.95	Fill of pit [205]. Dark brown, soft silty clay. Modern china	[205]	-
[207]	?	Cut for pond [207]	Natural	(209)
(208)	0.40	Brick pondwall	(202)	(201)
(209)	?	Pond fill of greyish clayey, sticky silty clay	(208)	(201)
Natural	-	Light yellow to white, compact Cornbrash	-	[204] [207] (202)
<b><u>Trench 3 (27m x 2m)</u></b>				
(301)	0.20	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent roots and modern building debris	(302)	-
(302)	0.50	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay with frequent Cornbrash	(303) (305)	(301)
(303)	0.46	Fill of ditch [304]. Light brown, compacted silty clay with frequent Cornbrash	[304]	(302)
[304]	0.46	Cut of ditch [304]	Natural	(303)
(305)	0.10	Fill of ditch [306]. Light brown, soft silty clay with occasional Cornbrash. Post medieval pottery	[306]	(302)
[306]	0.10	Cut of ditch [306]	Natural	(305)
Natural	-	Light yellow to white, compact Cornbrash	-	[304] [306] (302)

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<b>Trench 4 (27m x 2m)</b>				
(401)	0.20	Topsoil of dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent roots and modern building debris	(402)	[404]
(402)	0.50	Subsoil of light brown, soft silty clay with frequent Cornbrash	Natural	[404]
(403)	0.35	Fill of ditch [404]. Dark brown, soft silty clay with frequent modern glass and plastic items	[404]	-
[404]	0.35	Cut of ditch [404]	(401) (402) Natural	(403)
Natural	-	Light yellow to white, compact Cornbrash	-	[404] (402)

## Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation

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***OASIS ID: independ1-347335***

### Project details

Project name	Manor Farm, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire
Short description of the project	An archaeological evaluation at manor Farm, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire.
Project dates	Start: 27-08-2018 End: 07-09-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MFC18 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	18/00524/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	
Current Land use	Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed
Monument type	SN CL Modern
Monument type	SN CL Uncertain
Significant Finds	SN CL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SN CL Modern
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Rural residential
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE CHESTERTON Manor Farm, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire
Postcode	PE7 3UA

## Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation

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Study area 2 Hectares  
Site coordinates TL 1261 9531 52.543611492895 -0.339253634495 52 32 37 N 000 20 21 W Point  
Height OD / Depth Min: 18m Max: 21m

### Project creators

Name of Organisation Independent Archaeology Consultants  
Project brief originator Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body  
Project design originator Independent Archaeology Consultants  
Project director/manager Christer Carlsson  
Project supervisor Christer Carlsson  
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

### Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire HER  
Physical Contents "Ceramics"  
Digital Archive recipient Cambridgeshire HER  
Digital Contents "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"  
Digital Media available "Images raster / digital photography", "Images vector"  
Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire HER  
Paper Contents "Ceramics", "Stratigraphic"  
Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section"

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)  
Title Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire

## Manor Farm, Oundle Road, Chesterton, Cambridgeshire: Archaeological Evaluation

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